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Journal of the Saudi Heart Association

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EDITORIAL

Message from the President of the Saudi Heart Association

In the third issue of 2011, we present to you a themed issue with mitral valve review articles and other manuscripts addressing knowledge in this area. Going forward, we will have one themed issue per year giving an in-depth analysis of a particular topic.

The Saudi Heart Association continues to grow both nationally and internationally. At the national level the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Portal Program has been launched at the CPR Training Centers and training on the program will begin in the near future. This electronic portal will regulate the quality as well as the authenticity of all cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in the country. This portal has been long-awaited after a lack of appropriate standards and database references for health practitioners in the country.

Another important national project is the Ministry of Health initiative to establish cardiac standards and practice guidelines which will be based on the local Saudi population and will be an adaptation of international guidelines. This will eventually be produced in a document which will be published and distributed to all cardiac centers within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to elevate and standardize the advanced cardiac services in the country.

At the international level, we are collaborating with the American College of Cardiology to share the National Cardiac

Database Registry (NCPR) local data. This tool is a benchmark of the performance of our cardiac centers compared with the United States. Similarly we will also share the Cardiac Surgery Database which is currently being implemented in Saudi Arabia with the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. This will give international cardiac exposure for Saudi Arabia in collaboration with leading medical associations in the world.

The Saudi Heart Association made a successful international appearance at EuroPCR which was held on 21–23 May 2011 as a joint session, as well as with the American College of Cardiology in New Orleans in April 2011 and will hold another session in August with the European Society of Cardiology focusing on diabetes and hypertension.

Internally, the Saudi Heart Association will continue to develop its membership section as well as the different committees to develop the foundation so that it fulfils its tremendous potential.

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